

What is claimed is:

- Sub A! →
1. A rotary printing machine comprising a pair of sheet holding and transfer systems disposed in side-by-side relation for transferring sheets in the printing machine, said sheet holding and transfer systems defining a sheet transfer area
 5 therebetween,
 a sheet guide apparatus disposed underneath said transfer area, said sheet guide apparatus including a sheet guide which defines a guide surface for guiding movement of sheets adjacent said transfer area, and
 a separate pneumatic system operable for blowing an air stream in the
 10 direction of said transfer area to facilitate reliable transfer of sheets between said sheet holding and transfer systems.
 2. The rotary printing machine of claim 1 in which said transfer area is defined by a tangent point between said sheet holding and transfer systems.
 15
 3. The printing machine of claim 2 in which said sheet holding and transfer systems comprise a pair of sheet carrying cylinders.
 4. The printing machine of claim 2 in which said sheet transfer and
 20 holding systems comprise one sheet-carrying cylinder and a circulating conveyor system.
 5. The printing machine of claim 1 in which said pneumatic system is located adjacent a sheet outlet defined by said sheet holding and transfer systems from
 25 which sheets are directed.
 6. The printing machine of claim 1 in which said pneumatic system is located adjacent a sheet inlet defined by said sheet holding and transfer systems into which sheets are directed.
 30

10010345-120401

7. The printing machine of claim 1 in which said pneumatic system comprises a plurality of controllable fans for directing a low pressure high, volume air flow.

5 8. The printing machine of claim 1 in which said pneumatic system is mounted on said sheet guide.

9. The printing machine of claim 1 in which said sheet guide includes a first flow duct communicating with openings in said guide surface, a further
10 pneumatic system communicating with said first flow duct, and a second flow duct communicating with said separate pneumatic system and having at least one discharge outlet opening aimed in the direction of the transfer area.

10. The printing machine of claim 5 in which said sheet guide includes a
15 first flow duct communicating with openings in said guide surface, a further pneumatic system communicating with said first flow duct, and a second flow duct communicating with said separate pneumatic system and having at least one discharge outlet opening aimed in the direction of said sheet outlet.

20 11. The printing machine of claim 6 in which said sheet guide includes a first flow duct communicating with openings in said guide surface, a further pneumatic system communicating with said first flow duct, and a second flow duct communicating with said separate pneumatic system and having at least one
25 discharge outlet opening aimed in the direction of said sheet inlet.